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PATENTS{PRIVATE }

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of )  
Haiyou Wang et al. ) Art Unit 1754  
Serial No. 10/669,956 ) Before the Examiner  
Filed: September 23, 2003 ) Cam N. Nguyen  
CO-FREE HYDROGEN FROM DECOMPOSITION  
OF METHANE )

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This is in response to the First Office Action dated December 08, 12004. Please enter the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application and all are under rejection.

**First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1-5 & 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choudary et al.(Choudhary) in view of Richter et al (Richter).

**Examiner's Position**

It is the Examiner's position that Choudhary discloses a process for catalyzing a conversion of methane in a reactant mixture by passing over a composite catalyst at a gas hourly space velocity, pressure, and a reaction temperature of about 445°C to produce synthesis gas (H<sub>2</sub> and CO) etc., and the catalyst composite consists of transitional and alkaline earth metal oxides having the formula: T<sub>m</sub>AO<sub>n</sub>, wherein T is a transition element selected from Ni, Co, Pd, Ru, Rh,